



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION III  
841 Chestnut Building  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107-4431

ORIGINAL  
(Red)



SEMS DocID

2261437

Charles Walters  
HHS/ATSDR  
USEPA Region III, HWMD (3HW01)  
841 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Re: ATSDR Petitioned Public Health Assessment  
Shaffer Electric Site, Minden,  
Fayette County, West Virginia

Dear Mr. Walters:

On June 1, 1993, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) published its Petitioned Public Health Assessment (Health Assessment) on the Shaffer Electric Site (the "Site"), Minden, Fayette County, West Virginia. The ATSDR concluded that the "Site poses a public health hazard because of the on-site risk to human health resulting from possible exposure to hazardous substances [PCBs] at concentrations that may result in adverse health effects." ATSDR also reports that it is unable to determine whether the Site poses any public health threat to the general off-site population, citing the need for additional PCB data. Thus the Health Assessment states that the Site is an "indeterminate" hazard for the general off-site population.

In response, EPA has always acknowledged that residual PCB contamination remains at the Site. However, EPA's removal action, by design, instituted a number of activities (e.g. excavation, soil cover and fencing) to prevent any direct human contact with, or exposure to, remaining on-site contaminants. A 6 foot chain link fence was installed across the access road, just west of the existing building, from the Arbuckle Creek on the north end to the hillside on the south end. The fence was installed to restrict access to the Site. It was EPA's prior opinion that the fencing, in combination with the additional Site actions, was sufficient to restrict access to the Site and protect the public from exposure to hazardous substances and from any potential adverse health effects. It remains EPA's opinion that the site does not present a health hazard to the off-site population.

ATSDR's Health Assessment expressed concerns over the Site access issue due to the fact that the existing fence does not completely surround the Site perimeter. In recognition of the concerns expressed in the Health Assessment, EPA proposes to further evaluate the site and the related site access issue. To address site access concerns, EPA anticipates the need to

perform additional sampling in order to provide sufficient information to determine if additional action is required.

EPA will not make any decision or initiate any action on the Site access or sampling plan issues prior to consultation with ATSDR or The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WV-DEP). (In this regard, EPA has compiled all of the analytical data in the Site file and organized the data in table format. The data has been plotted on site maps, which have been drawn to scale. All areas of excavation have been charted and mapped, identifying pre and post analytical data. All of this information is attached.) As part of this proposed course of action, EPA will include in its review the sample data collected by the concerned citizen group, which previously has been submitted to the Agency. EPA will also consider any comments or suggestions that state and local government agencies and/or concerned citizens might wish to submit.

To ensure that all relevant concerns are addressed, EPA is asking that ATSDR and all other interested parties review the attached maps and charts and thereafter provide any facts, data or other information that may aid EPA in its review. Please submit your responses, by August 27, 1993, to:

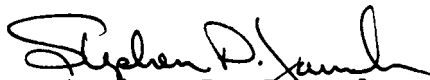
Stephen D. Jarvela, OSC  
Superfund Removal Branch (3HW30)  
EPA Region III  
841 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19170

EPA will review the existing, as well as any newly submitted, data and information and then prepare a draft sampling plan. The sampling plan will identify the locations, depth, and method(s) of any additional sampling that may be required. The purpose of the sampling plan is to assure that the analytical data obtained provides a complete and thorough examination of the on-site health risk and site access issue. The draft sampling plan will be distributed, for review and comment, to ATSDR, the WV-DEP, potentially responsible parties, the Concerned Citizens to Save Fayette County, Inc., and to State and local officials. Comments to EPA's proposed sampling plan will be addressed in the context of a final sampling plan for implementation by the appropriate party or agency, as necessary or appropriate.

EPA thanks ATSDR for its review and recommendations and encourages continued interagency coordination in the assessment of potential environmental and public health hazards.

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Sincerely,

  
Stephen D. Jarvela,  
On-Scene Coordinator

attachments

cc: w/attachments

Honorable Robert W. Byrd,  
United States Senate

Honorable John D. Rockefeller IV  
United States Senate

Honorable Nick J. Rahall II  
House of Representatives

Pam Hayes, WV-DEP  
Concerned Citizens to Save Fayette County, Inc.  
Anna Shaffer  
Berwind Corporation  
The Johns Hopkins University  
Joseph Schock, WV Dept. of Health, w/o attachments